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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Manuel de Bibliographie Historique.* Deuxième Fascicule. Par  
CH.-V. LANGLOIS, Professeur-adjoint à l'Université de Paris.  
(Paris : Hachette et Cie. 1904. Pp. 241-623.)

THE first part of M. Langlois's indispensable manual having been devoted to the more strictly bibliographical aids to historical study, the second part proceeds to treat of the other tools which the historical investigator has occasion to use, namely, "collections of documents, and repertories of words, names, dates, facts, and data of every sort". This second class of materials, however, does not admit of as satisfactory delimitation as the first ; these collections have themselves a history, which is virtually that of modern historical erudition, and a general critical guide to them is obviously an enterprise far too vast for any individual to undertake. What M. Langlois has given us is really a rapid survey of the history and present organization of historical studies in the principal modern countries, accompanied by brief notices of the great collections and by abundant bibliographical and critical references. Nothing of the kind has hitherto been attempted, except for certain limited portions of the field, and a comprehensive, well-ordered, and accurate manual of this sort will be welcomed not only by the student in search of special information, but by all who are interested in the development of historical science.

About one-fourth of the volume is occupied with the period anterior to the nineteenth century. While admitting that the ancients and the men of the middle ages were generally uncritical, M. Langlois does not share the popular opinion that they were in a state of intellectual infancy characterized by entire lack of the critical sense. The philological criticism of the Alexandrian and Pergamene schools showed a high degree of skill and discernment, and although ancient and medieval historians did not consciously formulate the principles of historical criticism, the best of them often applied these principles unconsciously with considerable discrimination. The greatest disadvantage of the scholars of early times was a material one, the lack of means of communication and comparison, and the absence of those manuals of "condensed and classified experience", of that "enormous stock of demonstrated truths" which modern scholarship holds conveniently and securely at its disposal. Still, such manifestations of the critical spirit as appeared in the middle ages might have been suppressed by the complete triumph of scholasticism or of mysticism, from which Europe was saved by the Renaissance. In many ways, however, the Renaissance contributed less than did the Reformation to

the growth of historical studies, historical criticism being in a very real sense, in Renan's phrase, the offspring of Protestantism. An interesting discussion of the influence of these movements upon the study of history is followed by a chapter on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, in which Langlois sketches the history of classical philology in this period and gives a good account of the work of the great religious corporations and of such individual medievalists as Du Cange and Muratori.

When he reaches the nineteenth century, preëminently the epoch when the greatest interest has been taken in the study of history, the author is forced by the extent of his subject to give up the chronological order of exposition and to confine himself, after an excellent summary of the general aspects of the period, to an account of the principal historical enterprises in each important country, whether carried on by the government, by learned societies and universities, or by private individuals. France naturally receives most attention, but Germany and Austria are not slighted, and the other principal countries of Europe are treated clearly, if somewhat more briefly. International agencies, such as religious orders, historical congresses, and the new association of academies, are also noted, but the British colonies are allowed only a single page, and Latin America is entirely omitted. The method of treatment throughout is sober and concise, as befits a bibliographical work, but there are many instructive observations by the way, and the concluding summary of the present state of historical studies is notably clarifying. The volume ought to prove practically useful, especially in a comparatively new country like our own, by suggesting, through the experience of other countries, the kinds of historical enterprises that most need to be undertaken and the most effective methods of organizing and conducting them.

In the eight pages which he gives to the United States M. Langlois labors under the disadvantage of dealing with a wide field where conditions are rapidly changing and of being obliged to obtain his information entirely at second hand. Some errors and omissions are to be expected, but on the whole the statement of the condition of historical studies in America is reasonably accurate and singularly free from prejudice or misunderstanding. The account of what the Federal government has done for history is confined to a reference to Mr. Clark's article of ten years ago and a confused quotation from it regarding the *Rebellion Records*, and nothing is said of the historical publications and enterprises undertaken by the several states. The work of the American Historical Association is given its due importance, and even exaggerated, as the Association is credited with the founding of *THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW* and with performing in relation to local historical societies exactly the function which the Comité des Travaux Historiques was originally designed to perform in France. The local historical societies are dismissed with a bare mention of the three oldest and with no notice of the work of the newer state-supported societies. Among the national societies more or less historical in character we miss the American Economic

Association and the Modern Language Association (as well as the newly founded Political Science Association), and among university publications, the *American Journal of Theology*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *American Journal of Philology*, *Modern Philology*, and the *Bulletins* of the University of Wisconsin. The schools at Athens and Rome are duly recorded but not the school at Jerusalem.

As regards American historical work in general, M. Langlois declares it decidedly promising, but so far rich only in works on American history, "treated mainly from a religious, economic, or sociological point of view"; whereas it can hardly be disputed that it is the constitutional, political, military aspects of our history which have received most attention. "The United States", he adds, "have made very few contributions of the first rank to the history of classical antiquity and medieval Christendom", the case of Mr. Lea being quite unique. As far as classical history is concerned, the reproach is entirely just. In spite of all the advantages of time, money, and special privileges which the study of the classics has enjoyed in America, it is extraordinary how little has been done to stimulate interest in Greek and Roman history and how small have been the American contributions to the world's knowledge of ancient history and life. The neglect of ancient history in our colleges and universities is, when all the circumstances are considered, one of the most serious charges that can be brought against American scholarship. As regards medieval history the criticism is not quite so well-founded. Every one will admit that Mr. Lea stands in a class by himself, but there is at least one field in which American scholarship has been steadily productive, namely, the institutional, legal, and economic history of England in the middle ages. If we bring together the *Essays in Anglo-Saxon Law* and the books of Bigelow and Thayer, Gross's *Gild Merchant* and lesser monographs, the investigations of G. B. Adams, Baldwin, and Lapsley in the field of medieval institutions, and the studies of Ross, Allen, Andrews, and half a dozen more recent writers upon agrarian conditions — not to mention research in the early history of English literature — and if we remember also that the best bibliographical works on English history are due to an American, we need have no reason to be ashamed of the results in this field. The total does not counterbalance the work of the country which can claim Gneist, Pauli, Brunner, and Liebermann, but it certainly outweighs that of any other continental country, France not excepted.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

*Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient.* Par G. MASPERO. (Paris : Hachette et Cie. 1904. Pp. 912.)

MASPERO'S work has long been accepted as a classic. It requires a rare combination of qualities to write a trustworthy and readable history of a period embracing many centuries and many different peoples; Maspero moves with ease through the mazes of his material, massing it into a unity and creating a story of real life in which the personages are nations.